



NORTH CAROLINA



Cooperative Crop Reporting Service

No. 198

RALEIGH, N. C.

DECEMBER 22, 1955

1955 ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY

MARCH FREEZE AND HURRICANES CAUSE CONSIDERABLE CROP DAMAGE

Fruit Crops Virtually A Total Loss

During 1955 the State suffered practically no damage due to droughty conditions, this was in sharp contrast to conditions during the four preceding seasons. At the same time the March freeze and fall hurricanes were in many respects more devastating than the droughts of earlier years. Rainfall during the Fall, Winter and Spring months of 1954-55, although slightly below normal was adequate for land preparation, seeding, germination and development of winter and spring crops.

Had it not been for the severe freeze which blanketed the State on the mornings of March 27 and 28, weather conditions, through Mid-August of this year, would have been considered very favorable for crop production. The freezes, however, completely wiped out apple, peach and pear crops and caused rather severe damage to winter grains and to stands of lespedeza which had already emerged at that time. There

(Continued on page 2)

THREE HURRICANES DAMAGE COTTON CROP

The 1955 North Carolina cotton crop is estimated at 355,000 bales (500-pounds gross weight). The 355,000 bales produced this year is 2.5 percent, or 9,000 bales, under 1954 production and 28 percent, or 137,000 bales below the ten-year (1944-53) average crop.

It is estimated that 480,000 acres of cotton were harvested this year -- a reduction of 12 percent from 1954 and 32 percent below the 10-year average. North Carolina growers had 489,000 acres under

(Continued on page 2)

RECORD FLUE-CURED CROP

Yield Per Acre Up -- Acreage Down

Total production of Flue-cured tobacco in North Carolina during 1955 is estimated at 996,125,000 pounds. This is 12 percent above the 1954 crop and 2 percent above the previous record 1951 crop of 978,375,000 pounds. Flue-cured acreage harvested in the State this year totaled 653,000 acres -- 5 percent less than the 686,000 acres harvested in 1954. A record flue-cured per acre yield was also set in 1955. The 1955 record flue-cured yield of 1,525 pounds per acre is 14 percent above the previous record 1950 yield of 1,341 pounds.

Type 11 (old and middle belts) production in North Carolina is estimated at 350,625,000 pounds -- a record high average yield of 1,375 pounds per acre from 255,000 acres harvested.

Type 12 (eastern belt) production is estimated at 516,710,000 pounds, which is also a record crop. The 1955 Type 12 crop

(Continued on page 2)

CORN PRODUCTION LARGEST SINCE 1950

Yield Per Acre Second Highest Of Record

The 1955 All Corn production in North Carolina totaled 68,055,000 bushels from 2,094,000 acres, with an average yield per acre of 32.5 bushels. This compares with 1954 production of 51,816,000 bushels from 2,159,000 acres, with an average yield per acre of 24.0 bushels. This year's production of 68,055,000 bushels is the largest since 1950 and the fourth largest of record. The average yield per acre of 32.5 bushels is one-half bushel under the record yield of 33.0 bushels set in 1950.

Production prospects appeared ex-

(Continued on page 2)

WEATHER SUMMARY *(Continued)*

was no recovery from damage to fruit crops but winter grains and lespedeza did manage to recover to a considerably extent and the final outturn from these crops was average or better.

On August 1 prospects for Spring-seeded crops were very good, with record or near record yields indicated. However, the eastern half of the State was delt a terrific blow by two hurricanes in August and a third in September. These storms came after most of the tobacco in the Border and Eastern Belts had been primed and there was very little loss of leaf. The most noticeable damage from the storms and heavy rains was that suffered by cotton, corn, soybeans and peanuts. Floody conditions damaged many low fields seriously, as continuous rains kept soils saturated for several weeks. Most crops in the Piedmont Counties were benefited to some extent by the rains received during the hurricanes and for the State as a whole crop yields turned out very good.

TOBACCO CROP *(Continued)*

was harvested from 317,000 acres for a record average yield per acre of 1,630 pounds. This is 195 pounds per acre above the previous high of 1,435 pounds set in 1951.

Type 13 (border belt) production in North Carolina is estimated at 128,790,000 pounds -- a record high for this type. Production during 1955 exceeded 1954 by 13 percent and was done on 81,000 acres compared with 86,000 acres in 1954. A 1955 record average yield per acre of 1,590 pounds exceeds the previous record 1953 yield by 175 pounds.

Production in North Carolina of Type 31 (burley) tobacco is estimated at 21,560,000 pounds -- an average record yield of 2,200 pounds per acre from 9,800 acres harvested.

CORN PRODUCTION *(Continued)*

tremely favorable throughout the Mountain, Piedmont and Coastal Plain sections on August 1. Shortly thereafter on August 12 and 17 hurricanes "Connie" and "Diane" wrought considerable damage to the crop in the heavy producing Coastal Plains area and extended into several Piedmont counties. Further damage was brought about by the third

hurricane "Ione" that struck on September 19.

In spite of the hurricanes and the effect that followed, this year's yield turned out to be the second highest of record. This near record yield is primarily due to a substantial increase in hybrid acreage, high applications of fertilizers, and a return to normal or above average rainfall that was proportioned very good throughout the growing season.

PEANUT PRODUCTION DOWN

Yields Drop Considerably

Peanut production for North Carolina in 1955 is expected to be about 216,200,000 pounds -- a decrease of about 14 percent from last year and the smallest crop since 1933. Current indications point to an average yield of 1,175 pound per acre, if realized this would be 290 pounds or 20 percent below last year.

Growers report that 184,000 acres were harvested in 1955 compared to 172,000 last year.

Weather conditions during the
(Continued on page 6)

COTTON CROP *(Continued)*

cultivation on July 1, compared with 557,000 acres in 1954.

The State average yield of lint per acre is estimated at 354 pounds. This is 35 pounds above the 1954 average yield per acre and 20 pounds above the 10-year average.

Cotton yield prospects, in all producing areas, prior to the arrival of Hurricanes Connie and Diane in August and Hurricane Ione in September, were the best of any recent year. The greatest damage occurred in coastal counties; however much of the crop in piedmont counties was severely blown and tangled. Excessive rainfall before and after the three hurricanes caused bolls to rot and most of the cotton which had been blown from burrs was lost. The final outturn of the crop in coastal counties was below average, while per acre yields in central and western piedmont counties were the highest of and recent year.

The United States 1955 cotton crop is estimated at 14,663,000 bales. This is 7 percent more than 1954 and 13 percent above the 10-year average.

1955 COTTON ESTIMATES WITH COMPARISONS

STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE			GINNINGS To Dec. 1 1955	PRODUCTION-BALES 1/			PRODUCTION-COTTONSEED		
	In Cultiva- tion July 1		Harvested	Average 1944-53	1954 Crop	Indicated 1955 Crop		Average 1944-53	1954 Crop	Indicated 1955 Crop	Average 1944-53	1954 Crop	
	1954	1955											
													1954
	- THOUSAND ACRES-			- POUNDS LINT-				- THOUSAND BALES-			- THOUSAND TONS-		
N. C.	557	489	545	334	319	354	345	492	364	355	202	155	149
S. C.	836	744	830	312	288	371	557	692	501	570	286	215	242
Ga.	1,039	904	1,025	253	286	380	681	695	612	705	281	255	291
Tenn.	657	580	648	360	405	512	532	565	548	610	222	223	246
Ala.	1,180	1,060	1,170	286	298	478	1,023	908	728	1,045	355	297	418
Miss.	2,001	1,745	1,960	341	384	564	1,900	1,693	1,571	2,000	681	654	814
MO.	455	399	450	368	478	492	386	358	450	405	152	197	176
Ark.	1,721	1,478	1,700	338	380	541	1,522	1,386	1,351	1,650	558	565	677
La.	698	625	688	331	399	457	556	591	572	585	239	236	236
Okla.	976	813	930	160	151	275	411	390	293	450	160	122	183
Tex.	8,065	7,268	7,730	188	245	282	3,535	3,388	3,940	4,025	1,400	1,640	1,682
N. Mex.	210	190	204	500	743	694	209	217	316	265	88	127	108
Ariz.	430	366	420	598	1,039	949	439	481	911	700	199	375	290
Calif.	896	764	883	631	806	803	924	1,048	1,487	1,250	417	619	511
Others 2/	70	64	68	283	367	371	32	47	52	48	20	22	20
U. S.	19,791	17,489	19,251	279	341	416	13,052	12,952	13,696	14,663	5,260	5,702	6,043
Others:													
Va.	18.0	17.0	17.1	354	285	320	9.6	18.3	10.2	11.0	-	-	-
Fla.	36.7	34.1	36.2	203	332	330	14.7	17.5	25.0	23.0	-	-	-
Ill.	3.2	2.7	3.0	242	444	332	1.4	1.7	2.8	1.8	-	-	-
Ky.	9.8	8.0	9.6	375	588	643	6.7	9.3	11.8	10.5	-	-	-
Nev.	1.9	2.3	1.8	3/443	561	457	-	.6	2.1	2.1	-	-	-

* Based on 1950-54 average ratio of lint to cottonseed. 1/ Production ginned and to be ginned. A 500-pound bale contains about 480 net pounds of lint. 2/ Sums of acreage and production for "Other States" rounded to thousands for inclusion in United States totals. Estimates for these States, except Kansas where cotton production is insignificant, are shown separately. 3/ Short-time average.

ANNUAL SUMMARY. ACREAGE, YIELD, PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF CROPS
1954 REVISED AND 1955 PRELIMINARY

CROPS	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION			SEASON'S AVERAGE PRICE ^{1/}		VALUE OF PRODUCTION ^{2/}		
		AVERAGE 1944-53	1954	1955	AVERAGE 1944-53	1954	1955	AVERAGE 1944-53	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	
NORTH CAROLINA															
GENERAL CROPS															
CORN, ALL	BU.	2,204	2,159	2,094	28.4	24.0	32.5	62,641	51,816	68,055	1.64	1.30	84,978	88,472	
CORN, FOR GRAIN	BU.	-	1,954	1,962	-	25.0	32.5	-	48,890	63,765	-	-	-	-	
CORN, FOR SILAGE	TON	-	86	52	-	8.0	11.0	-	888	872	-	-	-	-	
CORN FOR FORAGE	TON	-	119	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
WHEAT	BU.	410	350	326	17.5	21.5	22.0	7,178	7,525	7,172	2.01	2.00	15,125	14,344	
OATS, FOR GRAIN	BU.	375	523	528	31.1	39.0	35.0	11,734	20,397	18,480	.81	.77	16,522	14,230	
BARLEY, FOR GRAIN	BU.	38	57	56	28.8	34.0	29.5	1,108	1,938	1,652	1.13	1.11	2,190	1,834	
RYE, FOR GRAIN	BU.	22	18	18	13.0	15.0	14.0	274	270	252	2.08	2.00	562	504	
SORGHUM, FOR GRAIN	BU.	22	18	18	13.0	15.0	14.0	274	270	252	2.08	2.00	562	504	
SORGHUM, FOR FORAGE	TON	22	18	18	13.0	15.0	14.0	274	270	252	2.08	2.00	562	504	
SORGHUM, FOR SILAGE	TON	22	18	18	13.0	15.0	14.0	274	270	252	2.08	2.00	562	504	
SORGHUM, FOR SIROP	TON	3	3	3	71.0	56.0	76.0	445	168	228	2.70	2.60	454	604	
COTTON, LINT	TON	3	3	3	334	319	354	6,492	5,364	6,355	3.474	3.19	62,203	56,622	
COTTONSEED	TON	3	3	3	334	319	354	6,492	5,364	6,355	3.474	3.19	62,203	56,622	
TOBACCO, ALL	LB.	710.2	698.7	662.8	1,207	1,308	1,535	855,264	913,874	1,017,685	5.42	5.32	495,683	541,455	
TYPE 11	LB.	272	266	255	1,119	1,120	1,375	304,068	297,920	350,625	5.27	5.38	157,004	186,888	
TYPE 12	LB.	341.8	334	317	1,256	1,450	1,630	428,016	477,620	516,710	5.53	5.58	264,124	272,828	
TYPE 13	LB.	85.2	86	61	1,238	1,325	1,590	105,346	113,950	128,790	5.43	5.41	61,875	69,675	
TOTAL FLUE-CURED	LB.	699.0	686.0	653.0	1,238	1,325	1,590	105,346	113,950	128,790	5.43	5.41	61,875	69,675	
TYPE 31	LB.	11.2	12.7	9.8	1,198	1,204	1,525	837,428	889,490	996,125	5.43	5.32	483,003	529,831	
SWEET POTATOES, ALL	BU.	63	39	38	1,598	1,820	2,200	17,835	24,384	21,560	5.20	5.60	12,674	12,074	
SWEETPOTATOES	BU.	53	41	44	107	100	100	5,690	4,100	6,764	1.48	1.26	8,716	8,239	
LESPEDEZA, FOR SEED	BU.	158.2	126	175	202	130	190	32,028	16,380	33,250	2.77	2.35	11,357	10,340	
HAY CROPS															
HAY, ALL	TON	1,248	1,119	1,111	1.02	.96	1.12	1,266	1,076	1,244	34.00	32.00	36,584	39,808	
ALFALFA	TON	41	70	77	2.11	1.80	2.30	103	128	177	-	-	-	-	
CLOVER & TIMOTHY	TON	98	98	98	1.12	1.05	1.25	110	103	122	-	-	-	-	
LESPEDEZA	TON	513	444	391	1.05	.85	1.05	539	377	411	-	-	-	-	
SOYBEANS	TON	145	131	121	1.10	1.05	1.15	160	138	139	-	-	-	-	
COMPEAS	TON	236	181	171	.90	.75	.95	26	14	26	-	-	-	-	
PEANUTS	TON	89	95	119	.68	.75	.70	157	121	120	-	-	-	-	
GRAINS	TON	97	102	107	1.04	.95	1.10	100	97	118	-	-	-	-	
OTHER HAY	TON	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
LEGUMES															
SOYBEANS:															
GROWN ALONE	-	390	441	467	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
INTERPLANTED	-	222	145	141	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
EQUIVALENT SOLID	-	501	513	537	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
HARVESTED FOR BEANS	BU.	255	295	349	14.4	16.0	14.5	3,735	4,720	5,060	2.66	2.15	12,555	10,879	
GRAZED OR PLOWED UNDER	-	102	87	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
COMPEAS:															
GROWN ALONE	-	54	45	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
INTERPLANTED	-	93	70	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
EQUIVALENT SOLID	-	101	80	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
HARVESTED FOR PEAS	BU.	22	16	19	5.0	4.5	5.0	110	72	95	5.00	4.60	360	437	
GRAZED OR PLOWED UNDER	-	50	46	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
PEANUTS:															
GROWN ALONE	-	272	178	192	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
PICKED & THRESHED	LB.	257	172	184	1,190	1,465	1,175	297,142	251,980	216,200	1.34	1.25	33,765	27,025	
FRUITS AND NUTS															
APPLES, COM'L CROP	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,220	1,900	40	1.90	2.60	3,610	104	
PEACHES, TOTAL CROP	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,742	1,150	-	2.90	-	3,335	-	
PEARS	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	164	125	10	1.65	1.90	206	19	
GRAPES	TON	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	2.6	2.1	150.00	150.00	390	315	
PECANS, ALL	LB.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,371	1,000	400	2.89	.425	289	170	
IMPROVED	LB.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,114	860	350	.300	.440	258	154	
SEEDLING	LB.	-	-	-	-	-	-	257	140	50	.220	.330	31	16	
COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES ^{7/}															
-Actual Acres-															
FOR FRESH MARKET:															
LIMA BEANS	BU.	1,540	1,300	1,300	62	70	80	96	91	104	3.60	1.95	328	203	
SNAP BEANS, ALL	BU.	14,050	12,900	12,900	87	93	109	1,217	1,197	1,409	1.78	1.71	2,135	2,211	
LATE SPRING	BU.	5,840	5,500	5,200	72	90	90	420	495	446	1.75	1.60	760	680	
LATE SUMMER, WEST	BU.	7,320	6,700	7,100	100	100	130	737	670	823	1.95	1.75	1,305	1,491	
EARLY FALL	BU.	890	700	800	86	45	30	8/60	32	18	2.15	2.25	69	40	
BEETS	TON	310	300	300	236	235	210	72	8/70	63	2.20	2.45	141	154	
CABBAGE, ALL	TON	9,780	10,800	9,700	6.3	5.3	5.9	61.2	57.4	57.6	33.42	45.39	2,045	2,188	
LATE SPRING	TON	2,160	2,200	2,100	6.0	7.0	4.5	13.0	15.4	9.4	30.30	70.30	424	561	
LATE SUMMER	TON	4,420	5,100	4,800	6.8	5.5	8.0	30.1	28.0	38.4	31.30	29.00	876	841	
LATE FALL	TON	3,120	3,500	2,800	5.6	4.0	3.5	17.5	14.0	9.8	53.20	70.00	745	686	
CANTALOUPS (70 LB. CRATE)	CRT.	4,500	4,700	5,400	47	40	55	212	188	257	2.15	1.70	404	374	
CORN, SWEET (5 DOZ. EARS)	UNIT	8,120	7,200	7,900	90	85	100	8/727	612	8/790	1.90	1.80	1,163	1,050	
CUCUMBERS	BU.	5,460	5,400	6,500	79	90	110	8/428	486	8/715	2.35	1.25	444	428	
LETTUCE (L. A. CRATE)	CRT.	1,300	1,000	1,200	112	120	75	8/147	120	90	3.70	4.75	1,469	708	
GREEN PEPPERS	BU.	4,040	5,100	5,800	138	120	160	560	612	8/928	2.40	1.05	1,469	708	
COM'L. EARLY IRISH POTATOES	BU.	25,850	13,500	15,000	194	250	260	8/4	3,375	8/398	1.40	1.25	4,725	4,594	
STRAWBERRIES (24 QT. CRT.)	CRT.	2,480	1,600	1,500	78	85	25	182	136	38	7.80	13.00	1,061	494	
TOMATOES	BU.	2,520	2,600	2,600	78	80	85	196	208	221	3.10	2.70	645	597	
WATERMELONS	MELON	9,900	11,000	14,000	193	215	210	1,899	2,365	8/2,940	3.80	2.60	899	650	
TOTAL FRESH MARKET															
FOR PROCESSING:															
SNAP BEANS	TON	2,210	3,000	2,000	1.5	1.8	2.0	3.2	5.4	4.0	104.30	88.40	563	354	
CUCUMBERS	BU.	9,210	16,000	13,200	82	65	97	759	1,040	1,280	135	120	1,404	1,536	
TOTAL VALUE OF ALL CROPS	DOLS.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	819,487	10,839,820	
UNITED STATES															
GENERAL CROPS															
CORN, ALL	BU.	34,675	80,369	79,955	36.4	37.5	39.8	3,080,115	3,010,248	3,184,836	1.43	1.31	4,306,645	4,169,538	
WHEAT, ALL	BU.	67,656	54,279	47,222	17.1	18.1	19.9	1,154,073	698,646	938,159	2.12	1.99	2,084,743	1,887,098	
OATS	BU.	39,556	42,291	40,933	33.4	35.4	38.5	1,323,321	1,497,045	1,575,736	1.74	.992	1,068,562	932,220	
BARLEY	BU.	10,329	13,183	14,247	25.9	28.1	27.4	266,918	370,802	390,969	1.08	.932	399,168	364,310	
RYE	BU.	1,740	1,717	2,066	27.9	34.1	41.6	21,097	24,320	29,187	1.21	.976	29,446	28,475	
COTTON, LINT	TON	22,096	19,251	16,882	71.0	56.0	76.0	445	168	228	2.70	2.65	454	604	
COTTONSEED	TON	3	3	3	334	319	354	6,492	5,364	6,355	3.474	3.19	62,203	56,622	
TOBACCO, ALL	LB.	710.2	698.7	662.8	1,207	1,308	1,535	855,264	913,874	1,017,685	5.42	5.32	495,68		

SMALL GRAIN PRODUCTION 36 PERCENT ABOVE AVERAGE

Most Yields Down From High 1954 Levels

Total production of all small grains (wheat, oats, barley and rye) in North Carolina during 1955 is estimated at 27.6 million bushels -- 36 percent above average but 9 percent below the record production of 30.1 million bushels for 1954. The total acreage of small grains harvested during 1955 was 928,000 acres -- 20,000 acres or about 2 percent below the acreage harvested in 1954.

Small grains, especially barley, in most areas were damaged considerably by the freeze on March 27 and 28. Favorable weather conditions followed the freeze and the crops improved to some extent but never completely recovered from the damage sustained during the freeze.

Smaller Wheat Crop

The 1955 Tar Heel wheat crop totaled 7,172,000 bushels -- about 5 percent less than 1954 production but almost equal to the 1944-53 average production of 7,178,000 bushels. The 326,000 acres harvested for grain in 1955 was 7 percent or 24,000 acres below last year. The drop in acreage reflects a reduction in allotments from last year. The acreage drop was offset to some extent by higher yields as growers averaged 22.0 bushels per acre in 1955 compared to 21.5 in 1954.

SOYBEANS

Production Up -- Yield Per Acre Down

The soybean crop in North Carolina for 1955 started off good in the spring, but as the season progressed many unfavorable weather conditions hampered harvest prospects. Excess moisture in the eastern commercial area in July and early August caused heavy weed growth, and the three hurricanes, Connie, Diane, and Ione caused much physical damage to the foliage and young flowers. Several thousand acres were also damaged and some lost completely by salt water from the Atlantic.

Production in North Carolina for 1955 is estimated at 5,060,000 bushels which is the second largest crop on record. The yield per acre for 1955 is 14.5 bushels and this is nearly two bushels below the yield for recent years. Favorable harvesting conditions helped to increase yield and production above earlier expectations.

Oats And Barley Production

Second Highest Of Record

Production of oats in 1955 totaled 18,480,000 bushels -- this is the second largest crop of record being about 9 percent below the record 1954 crop of 20,397,000 bushels. Growers harvested 528,000 acres in 1955, the largest of record for the State, exceeding the previous high of 1954 by 5,000 acres. Yield this year averaged 35.0 compared to 39.0 for 1954.

Barley production in 1955 totaled 1,652,000 bushels -- the second highest production of record being exceeded only by the 1,938,000 bushels produced in 1954. The 1955 yield per acre of 29.5 was the lowest of record for the State since 1950. Growers harvested 65,000 acres in 1955 the same was harvested last year.

Rye Production Down

North Carolina produced 252,000 bushels of rye in 1955 -- 7 percent below the 1954 production and 8 percent below average. Yields this year averaged 14.0 bushels per acre compared to 15.0 for 1954. It is estimated that 18,000 acres were harvested in 1955, the same as was harvested last year.

PEANUTS *(Continued)*

planting and germinating seasons were ideal and most growers obtained very good stands. Rainfall, although light in some areas, was generally adequate during the growing season and plants developed well. However, dry weather set in during early August at the time the crop began to peg. The dry period was followed by several weeks of continued rainfall which kept soils saturated and flooded many fields in low areas. These factors caused only a small crop to be set. This along with some loss due to rot and sprouting reduced yields considerably below the high levels of recent years.



FRUIT CROPS ALL DAMAGED BY MARCH FREEZE

Apples, Peaches, Pears, Grapes

Apples: The 1955 North Carolina apple crop was almost a complete failure due to the severe freeze which came in late March. The freeze damage was severe in coastal counties as well as in the commercial areas of mountain counties, and trees in some orchards were severely damaged or killed.

The North Carolina commercial production was estimated to be 40,000 bushels which is only 2 percent of the 1954 crop of 1,900,000 bushels harvested. Estimated production of commercial apples in the United States is shown in the table on page 5.

Peaches: The multi-million dollar peach crop in North Carolina was completely destroyed this year by a late freeze in March. Only a few scattered peaches were produced in the Northeastern coastal counties, and for all practical purposes the crop was a complete failure.

MORE IRISH POTATOES PRODUCED IN 1955

Yield Highest Of Record

North Carolina's 1955 Irish Potato crop is forecast at 6,764,000 bushels -- about 15 percent above production in 1954 but 20 percent below average. Reports from growers indicate that 38,000 acres were harvested this year compared to 39,000 for 1954.

The increased production resulted from higher yields entirely. The current estimate of 178 bushels per acre is the highest of record for the State, exceeding the old record of 167 bushels set in 1950. The record high yields are attributed to favorable weather and growing conditions that prevailed during the entire growing season in the commercial eastern counties and the heavy producing mountain counties.

This is the first time since the Crop Reporting Service started estimating production in 1899 that there has been a complete crop failure. The most recent near failure prior to 1955 occurred in 1943 when only 252,000 bushels were produced.

Pears: North Carolina production of pears in 1955 was the lowest since the record started in 1909 and is estimated to be 10,000 bushels. The most recent small crop prior to 1955 was in 1949 when only 57,000 bushels were produced. The ten year average (1945 to 1954) production is 149,500 bushels.

Grapes: The grape crop in North Carolina was greatly reduced by the March freeze. Production for 1955 is 2,100 tons which is also the lowest since estimates began in 1909. Grape production in North Carolina has been on a general decline for the past twenty years.

SWEET POTATO PRODUCTION UP

Larger Acreage - Yield Unchanged

The 1955 Tar Heel sweet potato crop is forecast at 4,400,000 bushels -- 300,000 bushels or 7 percent above the revised production for last year, but 23 percent below average. The production increase is due entirely to an acreage increase of 3,000 acres. This year's crop was harvested from 44,000 acres compared to 41,000 acres for 1954.

Growers realized an average yield per acre of 100 bushels this year -- the same as the revised 1954 yield, but 7 bushels below average. The crop was severely damaged by heavy rains and flooding tides and water in some of the extreme Coastal counties and in these areas some acreage was completely abandoned.

PECAN CROP SMALLEST SINCE 1927

North Carolina's 1955 pecan crop of 400,000 pounds is the smallest since 1927 when 380,000 pounds were produced. The 1955 crop is only 46.5 percent of the 1954 crop of 860,000 pounds, and 19 percent of the ten year average 1944-1953 crop of 2,114,000 pounds.

Prospects for this year's pecan crop were never very bright due to the March freeze which killed a large part of the crop and damage by the three hurricanes in late summer.

Most all southern states had a very small pecan crop.

FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Agricultural Estimates Division
S. R. Newell, Director

Published by
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Statistics
L. Y. Ballentine, Commissioner of Agriculture

Released semi-monthly through the
Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh
Henry L. Rasor, Statistician in Charge

PRIMARILY FOR DISTRIBUTION TO
CROP REPORTERS AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS
ORIGINAL INFORMATION DIRECT FROM
FARMERS AND OTHER LOCAL SOURCES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
Raleigh, N. C.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300
(PMGC)

LIBRARY,
U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
G

3 MILLION BUSHEL GRAIN SORGHUM CROP IN 1955

Record 108,000 Acres Harvested

The 1955 all-sorghum acreage of 135,000 acres represents an increase of 25,000 acres over last year. Grain acreage accounts for 80 percent of the all-sorghum acreage as Tar Heel farmers harvested an all time high of 108,000 acres for grain this year (an increase of 19,000 acres over the record set in 1954). The remaining 27,000 acres is comprised of 8,000, 16,000 and 3,000 acres respectively for silage, forage and sirup.

The acreage harvested for silage and forage increased somewhat over previous year as favorable yields, ability to withstand extended periods of dry weather, and rotation advantages have caused many producers to switch to sorghums in producing feed.

Grain sorghum production passed the 3 million bushel mark for the first time this year. Higher yields and a larger acreage were responsible for the 36 percent increase in production. Growers

averaged 28.0 bushels per acre in 1955 compared to 25.0 for 1954.

Sorghum sirup production in 1955 totaled 228,000 gallons -- 36 percent above the short 1954 crop of 168,000 gallons. There were 3,000 acres harvested in both 1954 and 1955 but more favorable growing conditions enabled producers to make 76 gallons per acre compared to 56 gallons for 1954.

N. C. HAY CROP VERY GOOD

Record Yield Per Acre

Production of all kinds of hay in North Carolina in 1955 is estimated at 1,244,000 tons. This is an increase of approximately 16 percent over the 1,076,000 ton crop produced in 1954. Increases occurred in production of all kinds of hay, but the major increases were reported for alfalfa, clover-timothy, lespedeza, and grain hay.

The yield of 1.12 tons per acre is an all time high for "all hay"